(b) if so, whether this was due to the lower production during 2002-03;

(c) if so, to what extent it would be still less during 2003-04 and the actual demand; and

(d) to what extent Government are confident of meeting the shortage through imports?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) In order to ensure the availability of edible oils in the domestic market, import of the same (except coconut oil) is allowed under Open General Licence (OGL). The net domestic availability of edible oils during the year 2002-03 was about 48.63 lakh MT against an estimated demand of 103.00 lakh MT. In the previous year, 2001-02, an import of about 42.14 lakh MT of edible oils was made to meet the domestic requirement.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Employment in KVIC

2937. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is going to generate employment for 20 lakh persons during the current year and if so, in what manner;

(b) the extent of employment provided by KVIC in the year 2001-02; and

(c) the programmes under which this was done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is to generate employment for 8.48 lakh persons under Khadi sector and 54.17 lakh persons under the Village Industries (V.I.) sector and an additional employment to 4 lakh persons is targeted to be generated under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) in the current year (2003-04).

(b) The extent of employment provided by the KVIC in 2001-02 is as under:-

	Units	Employment (in lakhs)
Khadi	2100	8.48
Village Industries	8.48 (lakh)	54.17
REGP	20767	3.43

(c) The above employment has been generated under schemes relating to Khadi rebate, V.I. grant, Khadi/V.I. loan and REGP.

Cottage industries in NER

2938. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units of the cottage industries in different States of the North-Eastern Region;

(b) the percentage of people involved in the cottage industries;

(c) the number of families (in percentage) which are fully dependent on cottage industries, State-wise; and

(d) the marketing facilities that are extended to these artisans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGHPRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The number of units of cottage industries in different States of North-Eastern Region set up under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) from 1995-96 to 2001-02 is given below:—

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	No. of Units
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	317
2.	Assam	425
3.	Manipur	623
4.	Meghalaya	2784
5.	Mizoram	732